

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 15026

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJ: KANG SHEN FUNERAL

REF: HONG KONG 3577

1. FOLLOWING PRECEDENTS RESTORED FROM PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION DAYS AT THE TUNG PI-WU FUNERAL IN APRIL (REFTEL), PEKING'S FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LATE-VICE CHAIRMAN KANG SHENG BROUGHT OUT THE FULL RANGE OF CENTER LEADERSHIP. MARKED BY THE RETURN TO PEKING OF YOUTHFUL WANG HUNG-WEN, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONY, THE CEREMONY'S EULOGY WAS DELIVERED BY PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN/ MINISTER OF DEFENSE YEH CHIEN-YING, WHO PRAISED KANG SHENG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARTY AND STATE. MAO, PREMIER CHOU, INVALID LIU PO-CHENG, AND CHU TEH WERE THE ONLY POLITBURO FIGURES WHO DID NOT MAKE THE FUNERAL CEREMONY, BUT THE ELDERLY CHU TEH DID APPEAR ON DECEMBER 18 TO PAY HIS RESPECTS AT URN-SIDE.
THE URN WAS ESCORTED TO THE CEMETARY BY TWO FELLOW PARTY SECURITY TYPES, POLITBURO MEMBERS CHI TENG-KUEI AND WANG TUNG-HSING.

2. YEH CHIEN-YING'S EULOGY WAS EXPANSIVE AND REFERRED TO
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KANG SHENG'S CONTRIBUTIONS " TO THE BUILDING OF THE PARTY'S

SECURITY WORK AND CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARIAL WORK" AND , IN ACHRONOLOGICALLY LISTING HIS TITLES, IDENTIFIED HIM AS HEAD OF THE ORANIZATION AND PROPAGANDA GROUP OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE- POSITIONS WHICH WE WERE UNSURE STILL EXISTED AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE CR-- AFTER HIS CULTURAL REVOLUTION GROUP TITLE. YEH'S EULOGY WAS ALSO NOTABLE FOR IS INSERTION OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN THEMES AND ASSERTION OF PARTY SUPREMACY. KANG SHENG WAS DESCRIBED AS A SUPPORTER OF "NEWLY EMERGING FORCES AND THINGS" AND AS A MAN WHO ALWAYS " UPHELD THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY CHAIRMAN MAO". ANOTHER PHRASE, NOT IN THE TUNG EULOGY BUT IN USE FOR KANG SHENG, WAS YEH'S CALL TO FOLLOW THE PARTY AND BUILD A "POWERFUL MODERN SOCIALIST STATE". COMBINED THIS AFFIRMS CENTER LINES ON THE CURRENT DISCUSSION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CUTURAL REVOLUTION, AND SPECIFICALLY IN EDUCATION, WITH OVERALL REGIME GOALS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE FUNERAL LIST WAS ALSO REVEALING. FOR THE FIRST TIME CHANG TZU-SHIH WAS PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS THE SON OF KANG SHENG. CHANG HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE EDUCATION FIELD IN THE FAMILY'S HOME PROVINCE OF SHANTUNG UNTIL THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WHEN HE MOVED UP TO THE PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE (RC). BUT SINCE THE TROUBLES IN CHEKINGANG AND THE RESHUFFLE OF LEADERSHIP THERE, CHANG HAS BECOME THE FIRST SECRETARY RC/CHAIRMAN OF HANGCHOW. TOP SZECHWAN LEADERS, MR COMMANDER CHIN CHI-WEI AND PARTY NUMBER TWO LI TA-CHANG, BOTH WERE IN PEKING WHERE THEY APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN SINCE NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCES LEADING TO FURTHER SPECULATION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MOVED PERMANENTLY TO THE CAPITAL. SHANSI PURGEE HSIEH CHEN -HUA ALSO REMAINS IN PEKING AS HE HAS EVER SINCE HE CAME UNDER FIRE IN LAST YEAR'S CULTURAL CRITICISM. ON THE DISTAFF SIDE, CHO LIN (TSO LIN), WIFE OF TENG HSIAO-PING APPEARED BUT WITHOUT MUCH PROMINENCE WHILE LIN CHIA-MEI, WIFE OF LI HSIEN-NIE, APPEARS TO BE A LEADING MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, APPEARING IN THE LIST WITH SEVERAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS AND IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE SECOND RANKING FIGURE IN SPORTS.

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4. RUMORED OUT OR ON-THE-WAY-OUT , MINISTER OF METALLURGY CHEN SHAO-KUNG APPEARED IN HIS PROPER POSITION AD DID CHOU JUNG -HSIN THE CURRENTLY -CRITICIZED MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DIRECTLY BEHIND CHOU IN THE LISTING HOWEVER, IS CHIH CHUN, THE RADICAL HEAD OF TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, WHO HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM VIEW SINCE MID-1974 AND WHOSE POSITION IS NOW BEING SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS OPPOSING EDUCATION REFORMS PROPOSED BY CHOU JUNG-HSIN.

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